

Phone: 608/266-1714

OSTOfficeoftheStateTreasurer@wisconsin.gov

Fax: 608/266-2647

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7871 Madison, WI 53707-7871

January 3, 2011 For Immediate Release

Contact: Ron Giordan, Office of the State Treasurer

608-266-5757/608-219-2762 ron.giordan@wisconsin.gov

State Treasurer Ends Term by Returning Largest Amount Ever of Unclaimed Property Back to Wisconsin Residents

In 4 years, Treasurer Sass returned more than \$112 Million

Madison – State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass announced today that the Unclaimed Property Department in the Office of the State Treasurer broke yet another record in 2010, returning more than **\$33.1 million**. That is the largest payout in one year ever returned to state residents by the Office.

"It has truly been an honor to serve the residents of the great State of Wisconsin," Treasurer Sass said. "All these large payouts are a tribute to the staff that works hard on claims every single day."

The Unclaimed Property Department received more than **32,000** claims in 2010. That, as well, is a record. In Treasurer Sass' first year, her Office returned **\$24.7** million. In 2008, it was **\$28** million and in 2009, more than **\$26.8** million.

This year, Treasurer Sass implemented a system called "Fast Tracking" which allowed claim specialists to push claims of \$750 or less through the process at a much faster rate. She also wrapped up her 4th "Unclaimed Property Outreach Tour" – visiting all 72 counties each year to make sure people were looking for their "forgotten" money.

"I made it my goal when I took office in 2007 to make the State Treasurer more visible and accountable," Treasurer Sass said. "We are elected to help Wisconsinites each and every day and it was not only my duty to meet as many Wisconsinites as I could and help them find money...it was my passion."

Unclaimed Property consists of uncashed payroll checks, utility refunds, stocks, dividends and safe deposit box contents. Under Wisconsin Statute, after 1 to 5 years of inactivity businesses across the country are mandated to turn all unclaimed money, stock and safe deposit boxes to the State Treasurer's office for safekeeping. There is NO time limit for collecting your unclaimed property.

For more information on Unclaimed Property, visit www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
Search for "Wisconsin Unclaimed Property" and "@WIStateTreasury and become a fan!
And look for our MONTHLY Safe Deposit Box auctions on eBay!